

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

Claims 5-7, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner expressed that the recitation of two polishing pads and two tables leads to confusion. In response to this rejection, claims 1, 3 and 5-7 have been amended to recite “first” and “second” polishing pads, which are mounted on first and second polishing tables, respectively. And, claims 9 and 10 have been cancelled. With regard to the claiming of first and second polishing pads mounted on first and second polishing tables, the Examiner’s attention is respectfully directed to Figure 14, wherein reference numeral 10 corresponds to one of the polishing tables and reference numeral 130 corresponds to the other of the polishing tables, wherein a fixed abrasive pad and/or a polishing pad made of polyurethane foam is on these polishing tables. Please see page 29, lines 14-19 of the specification.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and therefore the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection should not be maintained.

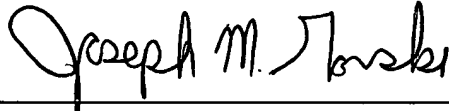
Claims 1-15 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-16 of U.S. Patent No. 6,626,736. In response to this rejection, a Terminal Disclaimer has been filed.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, with the allowed claims being 1-8 and 11-15, and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner believes that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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